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ing. He was invited to and often attended the Teachers' Associations and meetings throughout the country. In 1844, he was President of the Teachers' Association of New York; and in recent years, a member of the "University Convocation" of New York. It was to that body that he made his Report on the "Metric System," which was published in 1870. In 1824, the degree of A.M. was conferred by the College of New Jersey (Princeton); and in 1825, the same degree, by Williams College, Massachusetts; and in 1840, the degree of LL.D., by Geneva College, New York. If his was a life of actual teaching, it was perhaps still more so as the writer of text-books, and the author of methods. He began with the translation of Legendre's Geometry. It was a capital book on that subject; and its success induced him to go on with other works. Among them are no less than six different grades of Arithmetics; Elementary works on Algebra, Geometry, Trigonometry, Practical Mathematics, Surveying and Navigation, Analytical Geometry, Differential and Integral Calculus, Descriptive Geometry, Shades, Shadows and Perspective. In addition to these, he wrote the Logic and Utility of Mathematics; and, jointly with Professor Peck, the Mathematical Dictionary. The following is a complete list: Primary Arithmetic, Intellectual Arithmetic, First Lessons in Arithmetic, Elements of Written Arithmetic, Old School Arithmetic, School Arithmetic, Practical Arithmetic, University Arithmetic, Elementary Algebra, New Elementary Algebra, University Algebra, Bourdon's Algebra, Elements of Geometry and Trigonometry, Legendre's Geometry, Practical Mathematics and Mensuration, Elements of Surveying, Elements of Calculus, Analytical Geometry and Calculus, Descriptive Geometry, Shades, Shadows and Perspective, Foundations of Mathematical Science, Grammar of Arithmetic, Outlines of Mathematics, Mathematical Tables, The Metric System, Logic and Utility of Mathematics, Mathematical Dictionary.

FIELDING BRADFORD MEEK.

FIELDING BRADFORD MEEK was born in Madison, Ind., on Dec. 10, 1817, and died in Washington on Dec. 21, 1876. The circumstances of his little-eventful life are of small interest to his fellow-workers in science, save in so far as they show the conditions under which his peculiarly acute perceptions and admirable judgment became fitted for his excellent scientific work. Born in a community where science had no place, and urged by his surroundings to begin commercial ventures in a frontier society, with little preliminary training of any sort, and

with seemingly no inherited instincts leading towards a scientific career, we yet find him, after one or two unfortunate essays in business, which deprived him of a small patrimony, taking to the study of nature as by an instinct. Such inquiries as the writer of this notice has been able to make of his lamented fellow-worker, in their infrequent meetings, and of his narrow circle of early intimate friends, have failed to show in any clear way the steps which led to his beginnings in science. Much is, perhaps, to be attributed to the fact that his birthplace and the scene of his last work was in the midst of a region richly stored with fossil remains of an extinct and peculiar life; remains that are so captivating in their very strangeness that they cannot fail to gain the attention of eyes not sealed to the great problems of the earth. His body, naturally weak,—for he inherited a malady of the lungs, that made his life a long struggle with disease,—may have helped him to that isolation of interests which readily drives a mind of acute perceptions into studious ways.

It is no part of the purpose of this notice to consider his altogether admirable personal life,—that must be left to other and fitter hands; but there is yet another circumstance of his labor which will interest all those who are concerned with the question of the circumstances that have surrounded those who have done great work in science: for the greater part of his life, our late comrade was cut off by almost total deafness from all ready contact with the world; for all the later and most studious years he was absolutely deaf to every sound. Yet it should be told, as a part of his excellence, that this imprisonment within himself never lessened his beautiful kindness of spirit, nor checked his ready sympathy with the life about him.

It is Mr. Meek's palæontological labors which will remain his fittest claim to the gratitude of scientific men. Extending, as they do, over a long term of years, and concerning materials from all parts of the geological section, it is difficult to give them any general characterization. To them all may be given the highest praise for painstaking labor and perfect honesty of purpose. They nearly all belong to that class of works which are done in the interests of historical geology, rather than of biology. In this method in which his work was done, he but followed the necessary course of all those who take part in the great work of exploring a region unknown to science, describing facts as they are successively ascertained without much reference to general conclusions. His palæontological work was begun in connection with the surveys of Dr. David Daleman in Iowa, Minnesota, and Wisconsin, in 1848. After the close of these labors, he remained unconnected with any

public work until 1852, when he became an assistant of Mr. James Wall in his great palæontological explorations of New York. From this time to his death he was steadily occupied in that class of governmental researches that forms so large a part of our American scientific work. In the palæontological studies of the surveys in New York, Missouri, Illinois, and Ohio, he had a large share; and in all of them has raised for himself monuments to his painstaking researches. His most important work, however, was done in connection with the government surveys of the Territories. This work was begun as an assistant of Mr. Hall in the study of the then Territory of Nebraska. The principal results of this labor were published by this Academy in Vol. V. of its *Memoirs*, 1855. The last twenty years of his life he was a resident of Washington, and continually engaged in the study of the rich faunæ of invertebrate life from the districts beyond the Mississippi. His reports on the invertebrate life of these districts, measured by any standard, are to be ranked with the labors of the first palæontologists in the world. The very week of his death, the writer of this notice received the last and greatest of his works, — a report on the invertebrate cretaceous and tertiary fossils of the upper Missouri country, — a quarto volume of between six and seven hundred pages of text and nearly fifty plates. This work alone would prove the fit basis of a great reputation. It shows him to have carried his admirable powers, the unwavering fidelity, the patient courage, which he had borne through forty years of bodily weakness, unshaken to his end.

The peculiar seclusion in which Mr. Meek's life had been passed will not serve to make his loss so quickly felt as that of many another student of nature. But, though he passes from us leaving behind few connected with him by intimate friendships or even close acquaintance, there are few names in the history of American science so sure of a place for the time to come.

ADMIRAL CHARLES WILKES.

THIS distinguished officer entered the navy in 1818, as a midshipman. In 1826, he was made a lieutenant; in 1843, commander; in 1855, captain; in 1862, commodore; and in 1866, rear-admiral. His first cruise was up the Mediterranean; the next on the west coast of South America, under Commodore Stewart. In 1836, he surveyed, in the "Porpoise," George's Bank, off Massachusetts; and, in 1837, Tybee Bar, at the mouth of the Savannah River. In 1838, he was selected by President Van Buren to command the South Sea Exploring Expe-